

FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS 1871-
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and prudent, taking her share in international affairs but eschewing conspiracy and aggression, I think and hope I shall see the day when, through the majesty of right, truth and justice, we shall regain our lost brothers."

The Republican triumph of 1877 made Gambetta's accession to power a mere matter of time, and when Grevy succeeded

MacMahon as President in 1879, it was felt that the hour was nigh. Grevy, however, whether owing to jealousy or to fear of foreign complications, postponed the summons, and it was not till the summer of 1881 that he confessed that the next Ministry must be formed by the Republican leader.

The Emperor was a little apprehensive, and St. Vallier attempted to remove his fears by describing a recent conversation with Grévy. "So long as I hold my post," declared the President,

"I will never allow France to launch an attack. I shall know how to pursue and make all the Ministers pursue a policy of peace. In home affairs I shall not intervene, but I will never compromise on the maintenance of good relations. Germany can count on me and trust my word." When L

Grand Ministère was at last formed in December, 1881, Gambetta asked St. Vallier to report the effect. The Ambassador replied that the Emperor was apprehensive and Bismarck suspicious, but official relations remained friendly. The Chancellor informed St. Vallier, and Hohenlohe assured the Quai d'Orsay, that the formation of the Gambetta Cabinet would in no way diminish the friendliness of Berlin. *Le Grand Ministère*, however, only lasted two months, and in less than a year the great patriot died in his forty-fifth year. That he had ceased to think of a war of revenge was known only to his intimate friends.

The diplomatic rapprochement inaugurated by Waddington and approved by Gambetta was confirmed by Freycinet and Jules Ferry, though the deep estrangement of the

two peoples
remained, the German Government often
complained of the
utterances of the French press, and no one on
either side of the
Rhine imagined that the volcano was extinct. At
no time since
1870 had the wires between Paris and Berlin
worked so
smoothly as during the second Ministry of Ferry,
which lasted
from 1883 to 1885. The chief architect of the
new French
colonial empire, himself a Lorrainer, lamented
the defeat of
1870 as much as other men; but he believed that
Germany
would remain the stronger Power, that France
needed an outlet
for her energies, and that she could only
give hostages to
fortune in Africa and Asia if assured against attack
from beyond